

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TOKYO 13824 010759Z
ACTION HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 OES-09 EB-08 COME-00 MED-05

/041 W

-----030109 011241Z /50

R 010750Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0043

UNCLAS TOKYO 13824

DEPT PASS TO HEW/RSA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TBIO, TECH, JA
SUBJECT: ARTIFICIAL ELECTRONIC ARM-HAND

1. THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGENCY HAS UNVEILED, AND IS DISPLAYING, AN ELECTRONIC ARTIFICIAL ARM-HAND NEWLY DEVELOPED BY IMASEN ELECTRIC COMPANY AT THE REQUEST OF THE RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT CORP. OF JAPAN. THE ARTIFICIAL ARM AND HAND, DESIGNED FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR FOREARMS, IS POWERED BY NICKEL-CADMIUM BATTERIES CARRIED IN THE USER'S POCKET. IT USES ELECTRODES TO CATCH WEAK ELECTRICAL SIGNALS EMITTED BY THE USER'S REMAINING UPPER ARM AND TRANSFERS THESE SIGNALS TO A MOTOR WHICH MOVES THE WRIST AND FINGERS IN PICKING, GRASPING, AND ROTATING MOTIONS. GRASPING FORCE OF THE HAND, WHICH CONSISTS OF A METAL SKELETON WRAPPED IN A VINYL SKIN AND LOOKS LIKE A REAL HAND, IS ADJUSTABLE BETWEEN ZERO AND FOUR KILOGRAMS. ALL FIVE FINGERS HAVE ARTICULATIONS LIKE REAL FINGERS AND CAN BE MOVED SEPARATELY. THE DEVICE HAS BEEN TESTED OVER A TWO YEAR PERIOD BY 25 PATIENTS AT 4 INSTITUTIONS. USERS WERE REPORTEDLY ABLE TO EAT, CHANGE CLOTHES, USE SCISSORS AND CARPENTER'S TOOLS, DRIVE MOTOR VEHICLES, AND PERFORM OTHER TASKS. DEVELOPMENT COST WAS YEN 76 MILLION. THE PRODUCT IS EXPECTED TO APPEAR ON THE MARKET THIS FALL

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WITH A PRICE TAG OF YEN 600,000 TO 700,000. STA OFFICIALS SAID THAT PERFORMANCE IS MUCH SUPERIOR TO THAT OF SIMILAR DEVICES PRODUCED ELSEWHERE. MANSFIELD

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
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Draft Date: 01 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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